

Amendment to the Specification

Page 10, lines 19-20, replace the paragraph with the following paragraph:

FIG. 1 shows a graph of kerf cut depth per pass vs. pass number for a CO₂ and a diode laser, respectively.

Page 10, line 29, to page 11, line 3, replace the paragraph with the following paragraph:

Figures 2A and 2B show sections of concrete cut by the CO₂ and diode lasers under the conditions specified in the preceding paragraph, respectively. It may be seen that the kerf cut with the diode laser in Fig. 2B is of much more uniform cross sectional shape than that cut with the CO₂ laser. This difference in cross sectional shape, i.e. tapering more with depth than with the diode kerf, is accounted for by variation in power density across the advancing width of the laser beam, as explained hereinabove.